

P23682.A09



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 10/646,872

Examiner: C. MAHONEY

Filed : August 25, 2003

For : A SUPPORTING STRUCTURE FOR SUPPORTING A ROTATABLE RING

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97-1.99, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements and Completions of Record that were previously filed, Applicant hereby calls the following to the Examiner's attention.

The following documents were all cited by the German Patent Office in reference to corresponding German Patent Application No. 103 39 399.4-51, and were identified in the Supplemental Completion of Record filed on August 2, 2005:

- (1) Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 01-133014 A, which was published on May 25, 1989, together with an English language abstract of the same;

- (2) German Patent Publication No. DE 42 26 967 A1, which was published on February 18, 1993. Applicant notes that this document is a patent family member of U.S. Patent No. 5,268,794, which issued to CHAN on August 7, 1992;
- (3) German Patent Publication No. DE 2 346 398, which was published on March 21, 1974. Applicant notes that this document is a patent family member of U.S. Patent No. 4,012,124, which issued to TODA et al. on March 15, 1977;
- 4) U.S. Patent No. 6,064,533 to KENIN et al., which issued on May 16, 2000. Applicant notes that this patent was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement.
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 6,115,190 to HIRAI, which issued on September 5, 2000. Applicant notes that this patent was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,485,315 to NOMURA et al., which issued on January 16, 1996. Applicant notes that this patent was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement; and
- (7) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/039241 A1, which was published on April 4, 2002.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents and U.S. published patent applications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the materials cited and indicate such consideration by appropriately initialing the enclosed PTO-1449 Form and including a copy of the initialed form in the next official communication.

Applicant notes that a Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

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